CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A conveyor for intended use in the gap between a discharge end of a first conveyor having a drive unit and the infeed end of a second conveyor and including an endless belt or chain, comprising:

a frame including a pair of spaced side frame members, each including a slot, and a tensioner for tensioning the belt or chain;

a drive structure supported by the frame for driving the belt or chain;

a bed supported by the frame and supporting the belt or chain;

a pair of idler structures supported by the frame for engaging the belt or chain, one of said idler structures capable of moving to and fro within the slots; and

a slave drive for transmitting rotational motion from the drive unit of the first or second conveyor to the drive structure for driving the belt or chain.

14. (Original) The conveyor according to claim 13, wherein the slave drive comprises a first sprocket connected to a drive shaft projecting from the drive unit, a second sprocket connected to the drive structure, and a transmission chain or belt extending around the first and second sprockets.

15.-21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The conveyor according to claim 13, wherein the tensioner includes a pair of spaced arms mounted for pivoting movement relative to first and second spaced frame members forming part of the frame, each arm including a finger at one end for engaging the idler structure and a weight at the opposite end for causing the arms to pivot

such that the finger urges the idler structure toward the adjacent chain.

23. (Currently Amended) A conveying system including a compact transfer conveyor, comprising:

a first conveyor;

a frame supported by the first conveyor;

a drive structure supported by the frame;

a bed supported by the frame;

a pair of idler structures supported by the frame;

an endless belt or chain associated with the bed, the idler structures, and the drive structure; and

a tensioner ~~for urging at least one of the idler structures into engagement with the belt or chain~~ including a pair of spaced arms mounted for pivoting movement, each including a finger at one end for engaging one of the idler structures and a weight at the opposite end for causing the arms to pivot such that the finger urges the engaged idler structure toward the belt or chain.

24.-25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) The conveyor according to claim 23, wherein the chain is driven at the same speed as a belt or chain of the first or second conveyor.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A conveyor adapted to be positioned in the gap between a discharge end of one conveyor having a drive unit and the infeed end of another conveyor

and including an endless belt or chain, comprising:

a frame;

a drive structure supported by the frame;

a bed for supporting the chain, the bed including a transverse support structure supported by the frame;

a ~~pair~~ plurality of idler structures supported by the frame;

a tensioner for urging one of the idler structures into engagement with the belt or chain;

wherein the frame includes generally vertically oriented notches, each for receiving one end of the support structure associated with the bed when in a mounted position.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The conveyor according to claim 28, wherein the bed includes a wear structure for engaging an inner surface of the belt or chain, wherein the wear structure is comprised of a plurality of pieces of a wear-resistant material.

31. (Currently Amended) A conveyor adapted to be positioned in the gap between a discharge end of one conveyor having a drive unit and the infeed end of another conveyor, comprising:

a frame;

a drive structure supported by the frame;

a bed supported by the frame;

first and second idler structures supported by the frame;

an endless belt or chain extending in an operative position along the bed and

around the idler structures and drive structure and forming a T-shaped path including a return run having a first generally horizontal portion, a non-horizontal portion, and a second horizontal portion; and

a tensioner ~~for tensioning the belt or chain~~ comprising a pair of spaced arms mounted for pivoting movement, each including a finger at one end for engaging one of the first and second idler structures and a weight at the opposite end for causing the arms to pivot such that the finger urges the engaged idler structure toward the adjacent belt or chain;

wherein the first idler structure guides the belt or chain from the first horizontal portion of the return run to the non-horizontal portion, and the second idler structure guides the belt or chain from the non-horizontal portion to the second horizontal portion.

32.-35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) A conveyor for intended use in positioning in a gap between the ends of first and second adjacent conveyors, comprising:

a bed assembly including an endless belt or chain, a bed for supporting the endless chain, a drive structure for driving the chain relative to the bed, and first and second idler structures for assisting in guiding the chain, at least one of the drive or idler structures being movable for tensioning the belt or chain; and

a base adapted for attachment to an end of one of the first and second adjacent conveyors for supporting the bed assembly;

wherein the bed assembly may be bodily lifted from the base without removing or slackening the chain.

37. (Currently Amended) In a conveyor system for articles including a first conveyor having a feeding portion and a second conveyor having a receiving portion and a frame

between the feeding and receiving portions, the improvement comprising:

a transfer conveyor for feeding articles along the system spanning between the conveyor portions, the transfer conveyor including a conveyor chain or belt driven in an endless path and defining a conveying surface for moving the articles from the feeding portion to the receiving portion, the transfer conveyor freely resting by gravity on the frame and substantially fully releasable therefrom wherein the frame comprises a base including a pair of U-shaped cutouts for receiving the ends of a driven shaft of the transfer conveyor;

whereby in the event of an article jam or the like, the transfer assembly may be bodily lifted and released.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) The transfer conveyor in a conveyor system of claim [[38]]37, wherein the frame further comprises a pair of notches for receiving detents associated with the transfer assembly.

40. (Currently Amended) The transfer conveyor in a conveyor system of claim [[38]]37, further comprising:

a pair of spaced side frame members;

a drive structure supported by the side frame members;

a bed supported by the side frame members;

a pair of idler structures supported by the side frame members;

a tensioner including a pair of spaced arms mounted for pivoting movement relative to the frame members, each including a finger at one end for engaging one of the idler structures and a weight at the opposite end for causing the arms to pivot such that the fingers urge the engaged idler structure into engagement with the chain.

41. (Original) The transfer conveyor in a conveyor system of claim 37, further including a slave drive for transmitting rotational motion from a drive unit associated with the first or second conveyor to a drive structure for driving the belt or chain associated with the transfer assembly, whereby the need for a separate drive unit associated with the transfer conveyor is eliminated.

42. (Currently Amended) A conveyor for intended use in positioning in a gap between the ends of first and second adjacent conveyors and including an endless belt or chain, comprising:

a frame;

a bed supported by the frame for supporting the chain;

a drive structure supported by the frame for driving the chain;

first and second idler structures supported by the frame for guiding the chain;

a tensioner including a pair of spaced arms mounted for pivoting movement relative to the frame, each including a finger at one end for engaging one of the idler structures and a weight at the opposite end for causing the arms to pivot such that the fingers urge the idler structure toward the adjacent chain;

whereby the engagement with the drive structure serves to tension the belt or chain in the conveyor.

43. (Previously Presented) A conveyor adapted to be positioned in the gap between a discharge end of a first conveyor having a drive unit and the infeed end of a second conveyor and including an endless belt or chain, comprising:

a frame;

a drive structure supported by the frame;

a bed for supporting the chain, the bed including a transverse support structure supported by the frame;

a pair of idler structures supported by the frame;

a tensioner for urging one of the idler structures into engagement with the belt or chain;

wherein the frame includes generally vertically oriented notches, each for receiving one end of the support structure associated with the bed when in a mounted position.

44. (Previously Presented) The conveyor according to claim 43, wherein the notches are generally U-shaped.

45. (Previously Presented) The conveyor according to claim 43, wherein the frame includes a base in which the notches are formed.

46. (Previously Presented) The conveyor according to claim 45, wherein the base is supported by one of the first or second conveyors.